GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO OFFICIAL ADVISOR
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has rejected the request made by India to provide diplomatic status to the official advisor of Indian Embassy based in Washington;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as expressed by America; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)
(a) & (b) The United States Government have stated that they have prescribed general criteria for grant of diplomatic status and that the request made by the Government of India to provide such status to Shri B. K. Agnihotri, Advisor to the Embassy of India, Washington, does not fall within the framework of these criteria.
(c) The decision of the Government of India regarding the appointment of Shri B. K. Agnihotri has been taken in recognition of the importance of the Indian community overseas and in consonance with the need to maintain close interface with this community, recognizing their salience, in the context of the promotion of India`s global interests. The Government of India continues to recognize Shri Agnihotri, who is based in New York, as Ambassador-at-Large for Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin.